

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

November 21, 2006

Contact Person

Laura A. Przybylinski Finn
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Eugene R. Loughren, 35, of Superior, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 140 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine. Loughren pleaded guilty to this charge on September 12, 2006.

Loughren conspired with others to distribute methamphetamine in Superior, during a four-year period from January 2000 through November 2004. Loughren's sentence was based on his distribution of between 1.5 and 5 kilograms of methamphetamine, as well as the possession of a number of guns in relation to his drug dealing.

Although Loughren had no prior felony convictions, Judge Crabb noted that the sentence reflected the seriousness of Loughren's distribution of a significant amount of methamphetamine over a long period of time largely for economic gain, as well as his possession of firearms. Judge Crabb observed that Loughren had a positive social network and business background that he threw away when he started dealing methamphetamine.

The charges against Loughren were the result of an investigation conducted by

the Superior Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by
Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

#